GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4175
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Leprosy Patients
Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of leprosy patients in the country, State-wise;
(b) whether the leprosy patients feel disenchanted due to negligence by the society;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to examine the complexities that arise with regard to their jobs, housing, healthcare etc.;
(d) whether any special scheme/ programme has been initiated/is being initiated by the Government for cure, rehabilitation and welfare of such patients and to bring them into the mainstream of the society and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the various schemes/programmes under implementation for leprosy patients in the country, including Karnataka State, scheme-wise ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) The State-wise details of number of persons affected by leprosy in the country is at Annexure-A.

(b) & (c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that earlier, when there was lack of awareness about the nature of leprosy and stigma was associated with the disease, patients were isolated from the community which led to the formation of leprosy colonies. Further, late detection and consequentially, larger number of patients with disability also contributed to the segregation of leprosy patients from the community.

In the recent past it has been observed that newly detected leprosy patients are not being segregated / isolated from their family / society. This is because of early detection of cases, timely administration of treatment, greater accessibility of Multi Drug Therapy services, decrease in stigma and increased awareness about the nature of the disease and its curability. The findings of NSS report 2013 by ICMR on felt stigma is at Annexure-B.

The Central Government has notified the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 which envisages reservation in Government jobs for various categories of persons with benchmark disabilities including leprosy cured persons.

(d) & (e) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that the National Leprosy Control Programme was launched by the Govt. of India in 1955. Multi Drug Therapy came into wide use from 1982 and the National Leprosy Eradication Programme was introduced in 1983. Since then, remarkable progress has been achieved in reducing the disease burden. India achieved the goal set by the National Health Policy, 2002 of elimination of leprosy as a public health problem, defined as less than 1 case per 10,000 population, at the National level in December 2005.
â€¢ Following are the programme components :
â€¢ Case Detection and Management
â€¢ Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation
â€¢ Information, Education and Communication (IEC) including Behaviour Change Communication (BCC)
â€¢ Human Resource and Capacity building
â€¢ Programme Management
Details about the programme are at Annexure-C and details about State of Karnataka are at Annexure-D.

Further, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) under this Ministry implements a central sector scheme, namely, Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) under which grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations(NGOs) running projects for the welfare of Persons with Disabilities(PwDs) aimed at enabling them to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels. The scheme is applicable to all the States/UTs in the country. The Scheme envisages support to total number of 18 projects including project for rehabilitation of leprosy-cured persons (LCPs).

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